

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction for supporting a rider performing water skimming maneuvers, comprising:

a substantially stationary riding surface;

a flowing body of water flowing over the riding surface in a predetermined flow direction;

the riding surface having a substantially planar portion, followed in the flow direction by a concave upwardly inclined portion and a substantially upwardly convex ridge portion;

the flowing body of water on the riding surface having a predetermined velocity and volume sufficient so that to cause the flow to generally conform to the contours of the riding surface, the flowing water flowing onto over the planar portion and on to and over the upwardly inclined portion, and then on to and over the convex ridge portion without substantially separating from the riding surface;

wherein the flowing water maintains a sufficient velocity so that a rider can ride upon the flowing body of water over the inclined and convex portions of the riding surface.

7. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 6, wherein the riding surface comprises a downwardly inclined portion upstream of the planar portion.

8. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 67, wherein the riding surface comprises a second downwardly inclined portion downstream of the ridge portion, and the water flows onto the second downwardly inclined portion after flowing over the ridge portion.

9. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 8 additionally comprising a shutdown floor adjacent the second downwardly inclined portion, the shutdown floor comprising a drains configured to drain off the water.

10. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 9, wherein the shutdown floor comprises a grate.

11. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 9, wherein a rider can ride over the ridge portion, onto the second downwardly inclined portion, and on to the shutdown floor.

12. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the flowing body of water is a sheet flow of water.

13. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the planar portion of the riding surface is substantially horizontal.

14. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 13, wherein the horizontal portion is positioned immediately downstream of the upstream downwardly inclined portion and immediately upstream of the upwardly inclined portion.

15. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the water flow has sufficient velocity to flow over the upwardly inclined portion and over the ridge portion while maintaining a supercritical velocity.

16. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the water flow has insufficient velocity to maintain a supercritical velocity over the entire width of the upwardly inclined portion so that at least a portion of the flow reaches a subcritical velocity over the upwardly inclined portion.

17. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction for enabling a rider to perform water skimming maneuvers, comprising:

a substantially stationary flow shaping surface;

a flowing body of water flowing over the surface in a predetermined flow direction;

the flow shaping surface having a downwardly inclined portion, followed in the flow direction by a transition portion, an upwardly inclined portion, and a ridge portion;

the water flow having a predetermined velocity and volume sufficient to cause the flow to generally conform to the contours of the flow shaping surface, the water flowing onto the downwardly inclined portion and on to the transition portion, the upwardly inclined portion, and over the ridge portion without substantially separating from the flow shaping surface;

wherein a rider can ride upon the water flow over at least the upwardly inclined portion of the surface.

18. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the water flow has sufficient velocity to flow over the upwardly inclined portion and over the ridge portion while maintaining a supercritical velocity.

19. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the water flow has insufficient velocity to maintain a supercritical velocity over the entire width of the upwardly inclined portion so that at least a portion of the flow reaches a subcritical velocity over the upwardly inclined portion.

20. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 19, wherein a portion of the water flow has sufficient velocity to flow over the upwardly inclined portion and over the ridge portion while maintaining a supercritical velocity, while another portion of the flow reaches a subcritical velocity over the upwardly inclined portion.

21. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the upwardly inclined portion is concave upwardly.

22. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 21, wherein the ridge portion is convex upwardly.

23. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 2422, wherein at least a portion of the transition portion is substantially horizontal.

24. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 2223, wherein at least a portion of the transition portion is substantially planar.

25. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 21, wherein the water flow has a sub-equidyne flow area in which fluid drag forces on a rider are greater than gravitational forces, a supra-equidyne flow area in which fluid drag forces on a rider are less than gravitational forces, and an equilibrium flow area between the sub-equidyne and supra-equidyne flow areas, drag forces on the rider in the equilibrium flow area being substantially balanced by gravitational forces, wherein by selective control of the rider's body and/or a ride vehicle the rider can perform oscillating water skimming maneuvers whereby the rider oscillates between the sub-equidyne, equilibrium and supra-equidyne flow areas.

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26. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the flow shaping surface additionally comprises a second downwardly inclined portion downstream of the ridge portion, and the water flows onto the second downwardly inclined portion after flowing over the ridge portion.

27. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 26, wherein a rider can ride over the ridge portion and onto the second downwardly inclined portion.

28. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 27 additionally comprising a shutdown floor downstream of the second downwardly inclined portion, the shutdown floor comprising a drain configured to drain off the water flow.

29. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 28, wherein the shutdown floor comprises a grate.

30. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the flow shaping surface has a lateral edge, and at least a portion of the water flow flowing over the upwardly inclined portion flows over the lateral edge.

31. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 30, wherein the flow shaping surface is configured so that the rider can ride the water flowing over the lateral edge.

32. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 31 additionally comprising an exit area adjacent the lateral edge.

33. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the ridge portion of the flow shaping surface is inclined in a direction transverse to the water flow.

Please add the following new claims:

34. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 30, wherein the downwardly inclined portion of the flow shaping surface comprises side walls configured to keep water flow from flowing over the lateral edge of the flow shaping surface in the downwardly inclined portion.

35. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 6, wherein the riding surface has a lateral edge, and at least a portion of the water flowing over the riding surface at or adjacent the convex ridge portion flows over the lateral edge.

36. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 35, wherein the riding surface is configured so that a rider can ride the flowing body of water over the lateral edge.

37. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 36 additionally comprising an exit area adjacent the lateral edge.

38. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 6, wherein the flowing body of water conforms to the contours of the portions of the riding surface.

39. (New) A water ride facility comprising a first water attraction and a second water attraction, the first water attraction comprising a riding surface and a flowing body of water flowing over the riding surface in a predetermined flow direction, the riding surface having an upwardly inclined portion and a ridge portion, the flowing body of water having a velocity and volume sufficient so that a rider can ride upon the flowing body of water over the inclined portion of the riding surface, the second water attraction comprising a second flow of water directed along a water course, wherein water from the first attraction flowing body of water is directed to the second attraction water course so that momentum from the first attraction water is transferred to the second attraction flow of water.

40. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 39, wherein the second attraction water course is disposed generally vertically lower than the first attraction riding surface ridge portion so that water from the first attraction runs down to the second attraction.

41. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 39, wherein the second attraction comprises a lazy river ride attraction.

42. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 39, wherein the second attraction comprises a vortex pool.